



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JAN - 2 2014

Jonathan McDade  
New York Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
Leo O'Brien Federal Building,  
Room 719, 11A Clinton Avenue  
Albany, NY 12207

Daniel Streett, PE&LS  
Engineering Division  
New York State Department of Transportation  
50 Wolf Road  
Albany, NY 12232

Dear Mr. McDade and Mr. Streett:

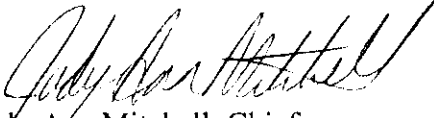
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)/New York State Department of Transportation's (NYSDOT) draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) on the NY Gateway Connections Improvement Project to the US Peace Bridge Plaza (CEQ#20130349). The Project addresses the limited direct access between the U.S. Border Port of Entry/Peace Bridge Plaza (Plaza) and Interstate 190 in Buffalo, New York. The purpose of the project is to reduce the use of the local streets by interstate traffic and provide access to the existing Plaza in its current location. This review was conducted in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7609, PL 91-604 12(a), 84 Stat. 1709), and the National Environmental Policy Act.

In addition to the no action alternative, there are two build alternatives that include a new ramp (Ramp D), providing direct access from the Plaza to northbound I-190 and another new ramp (Ramp PN) from Porter Avenue to the existing northbound I-190 exit ramp to the Plaza. The two build alternatives differ only in the type of connection between Porter Avenue and ramps P and PN. Based on our review and in accordance with EPA policy, we have rated this DEIS, and each of the action alternatives as LO (Lack of Objections), indicating that EPA has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal.

Please note that the final environmental impact statement should update the information on the Comprehensive Traffic Study on the U.S. Plaza, as described on Page 2-7, as to whether consultant selection has been made and when the study is expected to be completed. EPA suggests that the lead agencies in this study (NYSDOT, New York State Thruway Authority and U.S. Customs and Border Protection) keep the citizens living near the Peace Bridge updated on this work.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Lingard Knutson of my staff at (212) 637-3747.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judy-Ann Mitchell".

Judy-Ann Mitchell, Chief  
Sustainability and Multi-Media Programs Branch